

sea level, from where I had an unobstructed view for miles of country all around me. My object was to observe the migration of hawks, and I was armed with a Hensoldt Binocular eight power glass. The day was clear, and at one time late in the forenoon, several thousand hawks, Broadwings mostly, were in view. They came from a northeasterly direction which would take them directly to the Shawangunk Mountain, Ellenville, and Lake Minnewaska, N. Y., sixty miles northeast from my place, where a similar flight was observed by Mr. Barbour and Mr. Kirk Monroe. A constant stream of birds, very high up, could be seen for a long while, and they were going in the direction of the Delaware Water Gap. Over the valley to the southwest of me, the birds seemed to collect into an immense flock, while hundreds, if not thousands of birds were gyrating around and around, describing smaller and larger circles in the air, in heights of from, I should judge, 600 to 2,000 feet above the earth. Most birds were Broadwings. There were, however, other hawks such as Red-tails and Red-shoulders among them, while the "Accipiter" genus was represented by some Cooper's Hawks and more Sharp-shinned, which, however, were mostly flying lower and took no part in the general evolution. Some days I have observed about every species of hawks that we find in this part of the country, from the same stand. By decoying them with either a live or mechanically moving stuffed Great Horned Owl, I have taken some very successful and interesting photographs, and have secured hundreds of specimens with the gun.

Where this annual migration of hawks begins and where it ends, I do not know. If notes could be collected further north and south than Ulster County, N. Y., and Sussex County, N. J., the lane of migration might be well defined. The most extensive migrations occur just before a storm.—JUSTUS VON LENGERKE, *New York City*.

A New Name for the Texan Barred Owl.—By the changes in the names of the genera of owls lately made by the A. O. U. Committee, by which *Strix* takes the place of *Syrnium*, my name for the Texan Barred Owl becomes preoccupied, there already being a *Strix helvola* of Lichtenstein (Verz. Samml. Säugeth. und Vögeln Kaffernlande, p. 11, 1842). I therefore propose for the Texan Barred Owl, *Strix varia albogilva* nom. nov. The subspecies was originally described as *Syrnium nebulosum helveolum* Bangs, Proc. New Eng. Zoöl. Club, Vol. I, p. 31, March 31, 1899. The type of course remains the same, — adult ♀, No. 4551, Coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, Corpus Christi, Texas, Feb. 2, 1899.—OUTRAM BANGS, *Boston, Mass.*

The Breeding Season of *Strix pratincola* in South Carolina.—The contribution of Mr. Arthur T. Wayne in 'The Auk' for January, 1908, concerning the breeding of the Barn Owl in South Carolina during the autumn, suggests that the following notes regarding the nesting of the bird in that State in April might be of interest.

On April 1, 1907, while the guest of Mr. William Loundes at Cat Island, South Carolina, I learned that a pair of these birds had for years inhabited a disused rice mill on his plantation. Climbing to the second floor of the building we saw a pair of Barn Owls fly out of a window, the panes of which were broken. The nest was soon located in a covered portion of the machinery. It contained four eggs. On May 20, I again visited the mill, and both old birds flew out as before. In the nest was one young owl apparently about old enough to fly. There were no eggs in the nest and nothing was seen of any other young birds. On January 23, 1908, I examined the mill thoroughly but no nest could be found and only one Barn Owl was seen.— T. GILBERT PEARSON, *Greensboro, N. C.*

Curious Fatality among Chimney Swifts.— I am indebted to Dr. O. P. Maxson, Waukegan, Ill., for information regarding the destruction of a large number of Swifts, in one of the chimneys of his house during a cold rain storm. Dr. Maxson writes under date of May 16, 1908, as follows:—

“On the 13th May there was a large flight of Chimney Swifts during a steady rain storm. One of my daughters who was out in the yard noticed the Swifts flying down into the chimney with which the furnace flue is connected, and on going into the basement we found it full of coal gas. Supposing something was wrong with the draft we investigated and then heard the birds chirping and a fluttering of wings in the chimney. There is a door in the furnace flue, about 7 × 18 inches, used for opening when the furnace is shut off, and through this my son and a companion reached in and took the birds out from the chimney. Some were dead, others only stupified from the effects of the heat and coal gas, while many were able to fly as soon as liberated. At first the chimney, which has a large tile-lined flue, was so obstructed by the birds as to choke the draft, and for more than an hour the boys were busy in taking out the swifts which had accumulated and were still flying in, while three of the ladies of my family were receiving them and carrying them to the open windows of the basement. There being so many at work and in such haste to get the birds into the fresh air that they might revive as many as possible, they gave up any attempt to keep count of their numbers. There were, however, one hundred and five dead and probably five times that number that revived sufficiently to enable them to fly off, when liberated. After the numbers had largely decreased in flying down the chimney and the boys had abandoned their work, I went to the flue and extricated sixty-six more, of which eight were so injured by the heat that I had to kill them. This chimney was heated by the furnace fire, but another chimney connected with the kitchen range had not been used by the birds and none were found in the ash pit at the base of it. The flight lasted from the middle of the afternoon until evening.”

While it is well known that these Swifts congregate and roost in unused chimneys, particularly in the fall, prior to the migration, I think it is an